

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)
SUBJECT Cruiser ORDZHONIKIDZE

REPORT

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1. [redacted] the cruiser ORDZHONIKIDZE twice; first, in May 1952, and subsequently during the summer of 1952. Both times she was anchored northeast of the drydocks in Lepaya harbor.

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2. [redacted] she was not yet officially included in the Baltic Fleet. [redacted] Only the first coat of paint had been applied; In 1952 she was colored the conventional leaded gray of Soviet men-of-war. [redacted] she displaced between 25,000 and 30,000 tons and was from 180 to 200 meters long. She was fuelled with oil.

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3. Her armament included three heavy guns forward and three aft, which were located in swivel ("sharnir") turrets with armor 80 millimeters thick. A turret with 35-millimeter armor enclosed three lighter guns towards the bow but aft of the heavy guns. One similar gun on the stern operated from a similar turret. On both the port and starboard sides of the deck, between the ship's two funnels, were located three heavy antiaircraft guns. Also amidships, on each side of the funnels, were four turrets containing two light antiaircraft guns apiece. These turrets, too, were of the swivel type, and according to [redacted] description circumscribed 180 degrees. [redacted] Elevators were employed to supply ammunition from below; a special elevator fore and one aft served the heavy guns. Most of the antiaircraft ammunition was stowed on deck in special compartments amidships.

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4. The higher of the ship's two masts was slightly forward of the forward funnel, the other slightly aft of the rear funnel. Between the two masts stretched radio antennae. The radar (termed by the Soviets "radio location") occupied the forward mast. [redacted] its position on the mast was changed every three or four months.

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5. More accurate radar sets were constantly being installed, a custom which typified

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the policy of sparing no effort to improve the already good condition of the ship.
[redacted] the decks of the gun turrets underwent constant overhaul.

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6. Lifeboats and rafts were secured on both sides of the forecastle, which was elevated by about two meters above the main deck. A considerable variety of damage control materiel was situated on the main deck, including firefighting equipment in tubes, canvas, and wooden plugs, 50 centimeters in diameter. The latter two items, on all Soviet men-of-war, served to secure holes below the waterline caused by enemy fire.
7. The captain and crew were all Great Russians. The former was a Captain Third Rank; he wore three gold stripes on his sleeve and had three-starred shoulderboards. In May 1951 the ship had about 600 crewmen aboard, but that was not considered the full complement.

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8. [redacted] the ORDZHONIKIDZE had two new sister ships. [redacted]
[redacted] one of them in the first dock in Lepaya Harbor in January 1953.

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